

# Slaughter to secure more Homeland Security funds

## Congresswoman honors Niagara Falls firefighters

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Rep. Louise Slaughter came to Niagara Falls on Sunday to honor some local heroes and vowed to continue her fight to bring the region more homeland security money.

Slaughter, D-Fairport, criticized the Department of Homeland Security, saying there is something wrong with the funding allocation formula that allows Wyoming to receive \$61 per resident while New York receives just \$25 per resident.

"Here in Niagara Falls, we have so much that we have to guard," she told a group of city firefighters during their annual memorial breakfast on Sunday at the Como Restaurant. "So far, it has been an uneven and spotty agency, this Department of Homeland Security."

Falls Mayor Vince Anello, who attended the event, agreed.

"We have at least three bridges here in (Niagara County) going into Canada," he said. "I don't think any of the public safety people feel we're getting the adequate amount of attention we need."

He hopes other government officials, like Slaughter, will understand what the city is up against, and how the local economy depends on keeping the bridges safe and free-flowing for commerce.

She described other flaws in the current department — the fact that Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., was on a "watch list" by the airlines and was detained, was one example — and called for reform. Alaska Airlines in September thought Donald E. Young, the chairman of the House Transportation Committee, might be Donald Lee Young, a person on the government's no-fly list, and told him he couldn't board his Anchorage-to-Seattle flight. Rep. John Lewis, D-Ga., a leader of the civil rights movement, was also told he was on a no-fly list.

Slaughter, who represents



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**IN THE FALLS:** Falls Fire Department Chief Rick Horn speaks with Rep. Louise Slaughter on Sunday at the Royal Avenue fire house. Slaughter recently secured federal funding for a new fire engine, shown here, which was delivered Thursday.

parts of Monroe County, Buffalo and Niagara Falls, is a member of the House Select Committee on Homeland Security.

During the breakfast, Slaughter honored firefighters Gary Carella and David Behan, who rescued a woman at the brink of the falls in July.

The visit was also an opportunity for the congresswoman to take a look at a fire engine that was delivered to the Royal Avenue fire house on Thursday. It will replace an engine that will go to the LaSalle station.

Costing about \$240,000, the engine was purchased mostly with Federal Emergency Management funds secured by Slaughter. The city paid 30 percent of the cost of the truck.

The breakfast Sunday followed a memorial service held in honor of current and retired firefighters who have died in the last year. This year's event honored retirees Roy Naughton, Wesley Hare, Clarence Jagow, Steve Martha and Eugene Polin.

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